

Minutes
Finance Committee Meeting
3:30pm, 7/24/12
First Floor-North Conference Room, City Hall

Present: Vice Mayor Esther Manheimer, Chair; Councilman Marc Hunt,
Councilman Chris Pelly

Staff: Lauren Bradley, Gary Jackson, Jeff Richardson, Tony McDowell, Ken Putnam, Maggie Ullman, Roderick Simmons, John Sanchez Cheryl Heywood

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Pelly made a motion to approve the 5/22/12 minutes and this motion was seconded by Councilman Hunt and unanimously approved by the committee.

1. Golf Course Request for proposals

Mr. Simmons gave the committee some background information on the request for proposal process (RFP) for the management lease of the municipal golf course. Mr. Simmons said that the selection panel received eight responses to the RFP and after narrowing it down to two firms; the panel then selected Pope Golf due to their experience with managing golf courses in other municipalities.

Representatives from Municipal Alliance, a citizen stakeholder group presented the merits of the lease proposal for the municipal golf facility to the committee and responded to questions from members of the committee.

The committee directed City staff to continue the lease negotiation process with Pope Golf, and then recommended this item move to the 8/14 full council meeting.

2. Renewable Energy-Public/Private partnerships

Ms. Ullman presented the proposed sustainability policy to the committee, which outlines a process that defines the roles and responsibilities for establishing renewable energy public/private partnerships. The policy is a result of City Council's commitment to address climate change by reducing the municipal carbon footprint 4% each year, with a reduction of 80% by the year 2030 and to support continued development of a diverse regional green economy. The goal of the policy is to seek responsible partners to increase the quantity of renewable energy produced in Asheville and support economic development in clean technology.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Consideration of an addendum to fees and charges for the addition of a parking fee for pay by phone parking option.

Mr. Putnam told the committee that parking division staff is always searching for ways to improve the parking experience in downtown Asheville. To that end, staff is looking at options for using credit and debit cards for parking meter payments. One option that would be tested during the months of September through November is a “pay by phone” payment option using cellphone, text and a mobile “app”. Staff would like to pass on the twenty five cent convenience fee the vendor charges for using “pay by phone”. This would also keep the cost in line with cash paying customers.

The committee recommended that this item be placed on the consent agenda at the 8/14 full council meeting.

Vice-Mayor Manheimer adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.